THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURJj: (a) This Ministry is responsible for development and maintenance of National Highways only. Development and Maintenance of all roads other than National Highways is the responsibility of the concerned State Government. The road between Kotdwar and Ramgarh is not a National Highway and thus comes under the purview of the State Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Improvement of NH-7 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada

2712. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for expansion and improvement of National Highways-7 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada particularly between "Hayat Nagar and Chandarghat Bridge" in Hyderabad;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) to (c) It is presumed that the Hon'ble MP wants to know the details about National Highway No. 9 (and not 7) between Hyderabad and Vijayawada. Out of the total length of 266 km of NH No. 9 between Hyderabad and Vijayawada, 10 km length from Hyderabad and 13 km length from Vijayawada side is already four- lane. This includes 4.60 km length between Chander Ghat bridge and Hayat Nagar out of total length of 13.60 km. The remaining length will be widened in stages based on traffic volume, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Road Fund for Development of Highways

2713. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to enact a separate legislation to create a dedicated road fund for the development of highways;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that response of the entrepreneurs to BOT projects is poor,

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to grant liberal fiscal concessions for highways development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) and (b) For the development of Highways, the Central Road Fund Act 2000 has already been enacted. The Act provides for collection of cess of Re. 1/- pe< litre on petrol and diesel and crediting of proceeds of cess first to consolidated fund of India and after approval of Parliament to the Central Road Fund. The funds available from CRF will be utilized for the development and maintenance of National Highways, State roads, safety works on rail-road crossings and for rural roads.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. So far 21 road/bridge projects under the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) scheme involving an investment of about Rs. 1832 crore have been undertaken.

(e) Government has already taken a number of facilitating measures to promote private sector participation in the development and maintenance of national highways which include various incentives in the form of tax concession, duty free import of specified equipment, capital grant, permitting Foreign Direct Investment and external commercial borrowings.

Bicycle Lanes along the Highways

2714. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to propose bicycle lanes in India along the highways on the lines of China, where use of bicycle is very popular,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS [MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI]: (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) and (c) This Ministry is mainly responsible for the development and maintenance of National Highways only which mostly pass through non-urban areas where generally the requirement of bicycle lanes is not there.

Financing of NHDP from Wor'.d Bank and ADB

2715. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of loan country is likely to get from the World Bank and Asian Development Bank for Financing National Highways Development Projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that the development/construction work of highways